(छ) क्या सरकार द्वारा ऐसे चैनलों की समय समय पर समीक्षा की जा रही है?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री एस. जयपाल रेड्डी) : (क) फिलहाल कोई, भारतीय प्रसारण अधिनियम नहीं है ।

(ख) से (ङ) प्रश्न नहीं उठते ।

(घ) और (छ) देश के बाहर से अपलिंक किए जाने वाले विदेशी उपग्रह टी. वी. चैनलों को विनियमित करने के लिए वर्तमान में कोई प्रभावी कानून नहीं है । प्रसारण विधेयक, 1997 जिसमें अन्य बातों के साथ साथ इन टी.वी. चैनलों के विनियमन का प्रावधान है, को 16.5.97 को संसद् में प्रस्तुत कर किया गया है और यह इस समय संयुक्त संसदीय समिति के विचाराधीन है ।

Voters photo identity cards

2299. SHRI JAYANT KUMAR MALHOTRA:

SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the issue of voters identity cards on the recommendation of the Election Commission has been completed in all States;

(b) if so, the details thereof including expenditure involved and the infrastructure required therefor;

(c) if not, the details of States which have either not introduced this system or have objected for its introduction in their respective States; and

(d) in what way Government propose to tackle the issue in the national interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) None of the States has objected to the implemention of the scheme. The scheme is at different stages of implementation in all the States except the States of Jammu and Kashmir where it has not been introduced.

(d) The Election Commission is constantly reviewing the progress made by the State Governments in implementation of the scheme and, for that purpose, Chief Electoral Officers send regular fortnightly reports to the Commission.

Pending cases in original jurisdiction of Supreme Court

2300. SHRI MOHINDAR SINGH KALYAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many civil/criminal cases so far pending in the original jurisdiction of Supreme Court as on 30th June, 1997;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps are being taken by Government to clear the backlog of pending cases and do justice to the aggrieved parties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) The pendency of cases in the Original Jurisdiction of Supreme Court as on 30.6.1997 was as follows:

(Admission Matters)		(Regular Matters)	
Civil	Criminal	Civil	Criminal
(Actual number of files)			
486	107	720	41

(b) and (c) The pendency of cases in the Supreme Court is due to various complex factors and the Supreme Court has taken various steys to expedite the disposal of cases, which include more practical categorisation and classification of cases, stabilisation of Benches, avoiding delisting as far as possible, ensuring non-accumulation of defective matters and prompt listing of cases.

Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996

2301. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 will apply only to cases where a request for reference to arbitration is received by respondent on or after 25th January, 1996;

(b) whether as a direct result of this claimants would be deprived of benefits of new Act in large number of cases where arbitrator has not been appointed under old Act; and

(c) whether Government propose to clarify that word "commenced" in Section 85(2)(a) of new Act means commencement of arbitral proceedings when an arbitrator indicates his willingness to act as arbitrator so as to give benefit of new Act to all persons going for arbitration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes; Sir.

However, if the parties have agreed so, the new Act will apply even in cases where such request has been received by respondent prior to 25 January, 1996.

(b) No; Sir.

(c) In view of the clear provisions contained in Section 85(2) read with Section 21 of the Act, no amendment is necesssary in the provision.

Election duty by employees of PSUs

2302. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Election Commission has requested Government to empower the Commission to mobilise the employees of PSUs and autonomous bodies aided by Government for election duties as also to provide that employees of such bodies including local bodies could also be deployed for election duties outside their States;

(b) if so, the details thereof and

(c) what action Government have taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) A proposal was received from the Election Commission for amending section 159 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to provide that, in addition to employees of local authorities, employees of public sector undertakings, autonomous bodies, statutory and non-statutory bodies aided by the Government could be deployed for election duties.